

Attorney Docket No. UMBP:126US
U.S. Patent Application No.: 10/604,580
Reply to Office Action of December 2, 2004
Date: January 3, 2005

Remarks

Amendments to the Claims

Applicant has amended Claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that amended Claim 1 is now generic to Species I-V. In view of the amendment of Claim 1, Applicant has amended Claims 4-6, 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, 19 to provide proper dependencies, correct grammatical errors or remove redundant claims language. Applicant has canceled Claim 10 as being redundant in view of the claim amendments.

Applicant's claim amendments and cancellations do not, and are not intended to limit the scope of the claims or claimed invention.

Election of Species Requirement

The Examiner's Restriction/Election of Species requirement indicated that the present application did not contain a generic claim and that the application claimed five patentably distinct species. Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement inasmuch as it may apply to the claims as amended.

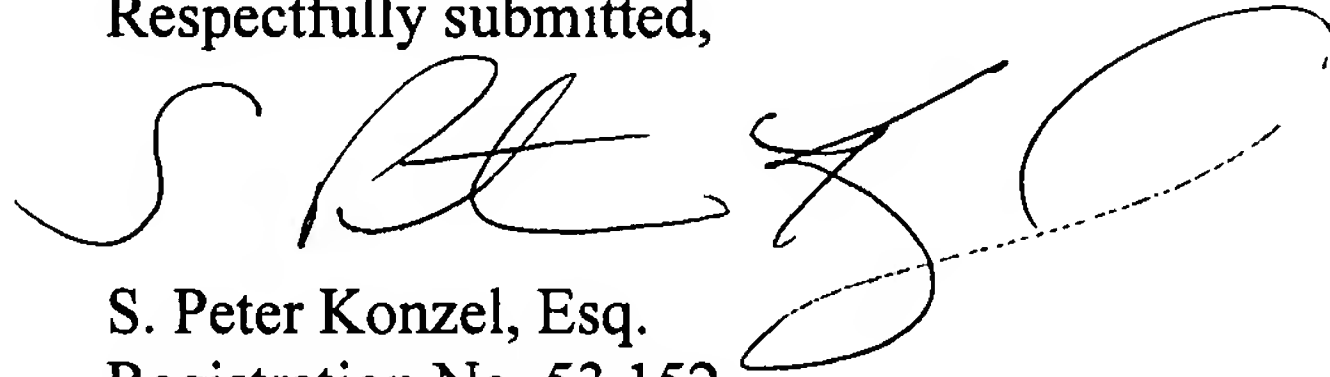
As noted above, Applicant has amended Claim 1 and respectfully submits that Claim 1 is now generic to all species identified by the Examiner. In the event that the Examiner continues to require the Applicant to elect a species for further prosecution or in the event that no generic claim is finally found to be held allowable, Applicant provisionally elects new Claims 20-23 for further prosecution and provisionally withdraws Claims 2-9, and 11-19 from further consideration.

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Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for examination on the merits, which action is courteously requested. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney of record if such contact will facilitate an efficient examination and allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Peter Konzel', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

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